

**REMARKS**

This Response is being submitted within three months after the shortened three-month term set for responding to the May 20, 2003 Office Action. Therefore, a petition and fee for an extension of time are enclosed herewith.

In item 2 on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner objects to currently pending Claims 5, 11, 15-17, and 22 for various alleged informalities. These objections are respectfully traversed because the currently pending claims are believed to be sufficiently clear to someone with ordinary skill in the art.

In item 3 on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects currently pending Claim 3 for allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed because currently pending Claim 3 is believed to be sufficiently clear to someone with ordinary skill in the art.

In items 5-7 on pages 2-3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects currently pending Claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 13-24 for allegedly being obvious in view of various cited documents. These rejections are respectfully traversed because the currently pending claims are believed to be nonobvious over the prior art (e.g., see the first paragraph on page 5 through the first paragraph on page 21 of the Voluntary Amendment, which was filed with a certificate of mailing dated February 5, 2003).

Currently pending Claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 13-24 are readable upon the elected invention and should be considered on the merits. Currently pending Claim 9 and currently pending Claim 12 are not

readable upon the elected invention, but should be considered on the merits because they are each dependent on an allowable elected claim (currently pending Claim 8 or currently pending Claim 11).

It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application at an early date is solicited.

Nothing in this Response shall constitute an admission against interest for the Applicants or the Assignee in any of the Applicants' or Assignee's other patent applications or patents. Nothing in this Response shall be used against the Applicants' or Assignee's interests in the Applicants' or Assignee's other patent applications and patents.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0415. In particular, if this Response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this Response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 C.F.R § 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this Response timely filed; and the petition fee

due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account No.  
12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
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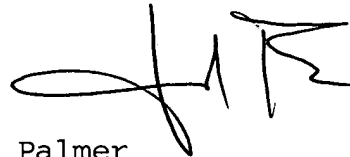
November 20, 2003  
(Date of Deposit)

JOHN PALMER  
(Name of Applicant, Assignee  
or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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